

**COUNCIL POLICY****CURRENT**

SUBJECT: ANNEXATIONS BY CITY  
POLICY NO.: 600-01  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 20, 1981

**BACKGROUND:**

The Municipal Organization Act of 1977 ("MORGA") (Cal. Gov't Code Sec. No. 35000 et.seq.), the District Reorganization Act of 1965 (Cal. Gov't Code Sec. No. 56000 et.seq.) and the Knox-Nisbet Act (Cal. Gov't Code Sec. No. 54773 et.seq.) express a legislative intent which is reiterated in "An Urban Strategy for California," State of California, Office of Planning and Research, Environmental Goals and Policy Report, 1978, favoring control of growth and assurance of orderly growth and development through expansion of municipal entities rather than through creation or expansion of limited purpose agencies. The State has declared that when areas become urbanized to the extent that they require a full range of community services, "priorities must be established regarding the type and levels of such services..." and that a single governmental agency, rather than a number of limited purpose agencies, "...is better able to assess...community service needs... and...is the best mechanism for establishing community service priorities."

Following the expressed State policy and legislative intent, the County, in its adopted San Diego Annexation/Incorporation Policy (Policy No. I-55) and Regional Growth Management Plan (June 1978), has promulgated policies that promote annexation and/or incorporation of urban and urbanizing areas by adjacent cities and that seek to assure that such areas achieve municipal status, since municipalities and general purpose agencies are better suited to controlling such areas and providing necessary municipal services than are special districts. Given this impetus towards annexation and/or incorporation of urbanizing areas, given the City's interest in promoting orderly growth and development on its periphery, particularly in areas that may ultimately be within the City limits, and given the City's intent to implement the Progress Guide and General Plan, it is desirable and in the City's interest to indicate its area of ultimate annexation decisions, whether such annexations are initiated by the City itself or by others; to indicate those City actions that will further the City's annexation policy; and to reference the procedural steps that will be required for City and property owner-initiated annexations.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Council Policy is to specify the areas of ultimate City annexation interest; to specify the factors that will be used to guide the City in responding to specific annexation requests and proposals; to identify necessary City actions to maintain or assert planning, land use and ultimate jurisdictional control over specified areas; and to reference the procedure to be followed for annexations to the City, whether initiated by the City or by landowners.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Council that:

1. Pending adoption by LAFCO of a “sphere of influence” for the City of San Diego, the City shall consider petitions for annexation of lands lying within the specified areas shown on the map attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
2. The specified areas shall be “preplanned” by the City through their inclusion in the land use element of the Progress Guide and General Plan; and, where feasible, by inclusion in community plans. Preplanning may result in lands being classified as Planned Urbanizing or Future Urbanizing.
3. The primary responsibility for initiating annexation proposals shall rest with property owners, who will bear all costs associated with the review, processing and evaluation of such requests.
4. The Council reserves the right to propose annexations on its own initiative, where it appears, based on the existence of one or more of the following factors, that such action will further the City’s interests:
  - a. a favorable fiscal or economic impact;
  - b. evidences of unanimous (or near unanimous) support on the part of affected property owners;
  - c. the opportunity to eliminate unincorporated islands and/or to make City boundaries more uniform.
5. Council action on annexation proposals, whether initiated by property owners or by the City, shall not be taken unless the following factors are considered:
  - a. whether the proposal represents an orderly extension of existing City boundaries;
  - b. whether annexation is timely from the standpoint of the City’s residential growth management program;
  - c. the extent of difficulty likely to attend the provision of urban services, either in the present or in the foreseeable future;
  - d. the results of a fiscal impact analysis, preferably undertaken on a community planning area basis;
  - e. the extent of jurisdictional problems (involving other governmental agencies) that might be created.
6. The procedure to be followed on annexations shall be that set forth in an appropriate Administrative Regulation.

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HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-169960 03/15/1962  
Amended by Resolution R-199987 06/11/1970  
Amended by Resolution R-205109 03/09/1972  
Amended by Resolution R-254646 07/20/1981

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